

Status of the Landsat Data Continuity Mission (LDCM)

presented by

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Legislated Mandate



- The Land Remote Sensing Policy Act of 1992(P.L. 102-55)
 directed Landsat Program Management (now NASA & USGS)
 to assess options for a successor land remote sensing system
 to Landsat 7 including:
 - 1. Private sector funding and management
 - 2. Establishing an international consortium
 - 3. Funding and management by the United States Government
 - 4. A cooperative effort between the United States Government and the private sector
- "Preference should be given to the development of such as system by the private sector"

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Chronology of LDCM Events



- July 09, 1999: Released RFI for procurement of Landsat-like data
 - respondents did not believe Landsat 30m data was commercially viable
 - favored contractor owned and operated systems, but were willing to consider innovative procurement options
- Nov.06, 2000: Posted first draft of LDCM Data Specification on Internet for public review and comment
- Jan. 09 10, 2001: LDCM Workshop at USGS HQ, Reston, VA
- April 26, 2001: LDCM Workshop at ASPRS Spring Meeting, St. Louis, MO
- Nov. 01, 2001: Released LDCM Formulation Phase RFP
 - Called for the formulation of preliminary system designs
- March 15, 2002: Awarded two \$5M Formulation Phase contracts
 - Resource 21 of Englewood, CO
 - DigitalGlobe of Longmont, CO
 - Formulation culminated with preliminary design reviews in Nov., 2002



Chronology of LDCM Events (cont.)



- Jan. 06, 2003: Released LDCM Implementation Phase RFP
 - Requested proposals for procurement of data from privatley owned and commercially operated satellite system
 - Operational delivery of LDCM data was to begin no later than 45 months after contract award; March, 2007 assuming June, 2003 award
 - Included Data Specification, Data Policy, and Calibration Requirements
 - Feb. 25 proposal deadline
- April 25, 2003: OSTP released U.S. Commercial Remote Sensing Policy
- Sept. 26, 2003: Cancelled Implementation Phase RFP
 - Response failed to meet key objective of RFP; to form a fair and equitable partnership
 - Expected that Government' cost of acquiring Landsat data would be reduced by private industry's equity investment
 - Response left the Government with a disproportionate share of the costs and risks of system development

Next Steps



- Following cancellation of the RFP the Executive Office of the President (EOP) formed and took the lead on an interagency working group on the LDCM
 - Working group is led by the NSC, OSTP, and OMB of the EOP
 - Working group participants include representatives of NASA, USGS, NOAA, NRO, and NGA
- Dr. Asrar discussed LDCM options at the ESSAC meeting in San Diego
- Options reviewed with small group of U.S. Government data users on March 10 in Washington, D.C.

Congressional Guidance



- Excerpt from "CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2673, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004 --(House of Representatives - November 25, 2003)"
 - "the conferees instruct NASA to immediately begin developing a successor to the Landsat 7 system in accordance with P.L. 102-555. Furthermore, the conferees instruct NASA, working in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey, to develop a successor system that may be implemented in the near term based on the remaining options cited in the Land Remote Sensing Policy Act. It is the conferee's expectation that NASA will include in its FY 2005 budget justification a detailed plan and timeline for developing a successor system to Landsat 7."